

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



Top Secret

25X1

imagery analysis report

Soviet Natural Gas Pipeline
Construction: Siberia-to-
Western Europe (S)

255

Top Secret

25X1

IAR-0025X1
AUGUST 1982
Copy 171

Page Denied

Top Secret RUFF

25X1

25X1

SOVIET NATURAL GAS PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION: SIBERIA-TO-WESTERN EUROPE (S)

INTRODUCTION

1. (U) The Soviets plan to construct almost 13,000 nautical miles (nm) of large-diameter pipeline by 1985. Six 56-inch gas pipelines are planned. All will begin at the Urengoy gas fields, but each will terminate in a different location. Five will serve domestic needs (Inset, Figure 1) and one, the 2,888-nm Siberia-to-Western Europe natural gas pipeline (hereafter referred to as the export pipeline; Figure 1), will supply Soviet natural gas to western Europe. Two of the five domestic pipelines will terminate in Yelets. The others will terminate in Petrovsk, Novoposkov, and Moscow. The export pipeline will terminate in Uzhgorod, on the Czechoslovakian border.¹

2. (S/WN) A preliminary analysis of selected imagery acquired from [] revealed that construction has been started on a major section of at least one of the five parallel natural gas pipelines that will run from the Urengoy gas fields to the Perm area (58-00-59N 56-12-18E). From Perm these pipelines, including the export pipeline, will branch off in several directions. Construction for at least one of the pipelines was observed from Ivdel (8*) to southeast of Perm (13). Construction for either the Urengoy-Yelets pipeline or the export pipeline was also observed between Algasovo (24) and Yelets (27).

25X1

25X1

3. (U) This report contains seven annotated graphics, one ground photo, one location map, and two tables.

DISCUSSION

4. (TSR) Imagery covering approximately 80 percent of the proposed route east of Perm was acquired during the most recent search [] mission. However, only 5 percent of the central and western portions of the route, from Perm to Uzhgorod, was imaged.

25X1

5. (TSR) Extensive construction was observed from [] along a 215-nm section of the pipeline route from the limits of photography at 60-41-00N 060-31-37E, just northeast of Ivdel (8), south-southwest to the limits of photography at 57-37-12N 057-24-35E, 40 nm southeast of Perm. The construction included preparing of the pipeline right of way (mostly along the route of existing gas pipelines), laying of pipe, and constructing at least four gas compressor stations.

25X1

6. (S/WN) A 125-nm section of intermittent pipeline construction, along which two compressor stations were under construction, was observed during the reporting period. It was located in the middle of the proposed export pipeline route from 53-36-06N 041-30-10E, near Algasovo (24), southwest to 52-35-42N 038-24-34E, just southwest of Yelets (27). This construction is related either to the two domestic pipelines from Urengoy to Yelets or to the export pipeline. Imagery-derived evidence that construction has started was perhaps most promising at Yelets (Figure 2) and at Kazan. At Yelets, a compressor station was under construction and pipeline construction was underway southwest of the station. At Kazan, large pipeline storage areas and pipe, as well as ground scarring for probable compressor station site preparation were observed.

7. (S/WN) Seven compressor stations under construction (Table 1), three of which were in a late stage of construction as of [] were present along these two sections of pipeline. The compressor station just south of Biser was in the early stage of construction. However, the station is located along an existing pipeline just northeast of its junction with the route of the new pipeline. On account of the early construction status of the station, any association with the new pipeline has not yet been determined.

25X1

8. (TSU) Ten of the 40 compressor stations along the export pipeline route are reportedly under construction.² These stations are listed on the export pipeline route map (Figure 1). Although four of the five compressor stations under construction in the Ivdel-to-Perm section are at locations where export compressor station construction activity is reportedly underway,² it cannot be confirmed if they are for the export pipeline. A Department of Defense report states that intensive construction activity for the Urengoy-Novoposkov domestic pipeline is underway in this area.³ In fact, because of the advanced stage of construction of some of the compressor stations in this area, construction observed since late June 1980 between Ivdel and Perm is more likely to be a portion of the Urengoy-Novoposkov domestic pipeline. In addition, it has been reported that the compressor stations for the export pipeline intend to use three large 25-megawatt compressors per station.⁴ The presence of 8 or 13 compressors at each of these 5 stations indicates that a less powerful compressor is being used. The Gornozavodsk compressor station (Figure 3) is typical of the other compressor stations observed under construction.

9. (S/WN) Examples of construction along the Ivdel-Perm section of the pipeline are shown in Figures 4 and 5. The laying of pipe into a trench was underway south of Novaya-Lyalya (10; Figure 4) on [] Teams of side-boom tractors were used to lower the pipe sections into the trench. Figure 5 shows these tractors laying pipe in western Siberia on an unrelated pipeline project.

25X1

25X1

*Numbers are keyed to Figure 1.

25X1

10. (S/WN) Several pipeline storage areas are along the pipeline route. A typical storage camp is shown in Figure 6. At these camps, pipe is assembled into longer sections prior to being moved by specialized pipe-hauling trucks to the emplacement site. Each camp contains a facility at which three shorter pipe sections are welded together into one larger section. The pipe sections shown in Figure 6 are 56 inches in diameter, and the short stacked pipe sections are approximately 12 meters long. The long pipe sections are approximately 36 meters long. These pipeline storage areas are usually established prior to the start of pipeline construction and are useful indicators of future construction in an area.

11. (S/WN) Although forced labor/prison camps are in many of the larger towns along the Ivdel-Perm pipeline segment, they were apparently providing labor for factory/plant construction, animal husbandry, or forestry projects in these areas. No newly constructed forced labor/prison camps were observed along the pipeline route. The forced labor/prison camp and its associated work projects closest to the pipeline route were observed near Ivdel (Figure 7). At that location, two small (one shown on graphic) agriculture-related, forced labor projects (Figure 8) were adjacent to the new pipeline route. Both were fence secured and contained a probable guard tower. Inside the fenceline were several buildings for livestock. The laborers/prisoners for these projects are probably housed 3 nm away at the camp in Ivdel which includes barracks, a messhall, and an isolation area (Figure 9).

12. (S/WN) Support camps for pipeline and compressor station construction were also observed at several locations along the pipeline route during the reporting period. These support camps consisted of numerous house trailers, temporary buildings, and open storage for equipment and pipe. There was no evidence of any security measures that would indicate that forced labor was being housed or used at these camps. The use of forced labor on the pipeline project could not be confirmed or denied.

Table 1.
Compressor Stations Under Construction That Have Been Identified On Imagery

This table in its entirety is classified SECRET/WMINTEL

Town	Coordinates	Number of Compressors	Stage of Construction	Comments
Ivdel (8)	60-38-12N 60-20-55E	at least 8	Late	Adjacent to existing compressor station
Krasnoturinsk (9)	59-48-32N 60-14-32E	8	Early	
Biser	59-29-31N 58-51-13E	Unknown	Early	May not be related to pipelines under discussion
Novaya Lyalya (10)	58-59-35N 59-38-09E	8	Mid	
Gornozavodsk (12)	58-21-05N 58-25-48E	13	Late	
Chaplygin near Staroyuryevo (25)	53-11-00N 39-59-10E	6	Mid	
Yelets (27)	52-35-42N 38-24-34E	6	Late	Adjacent to existing compressor station

Top Secret RUFF

25X1

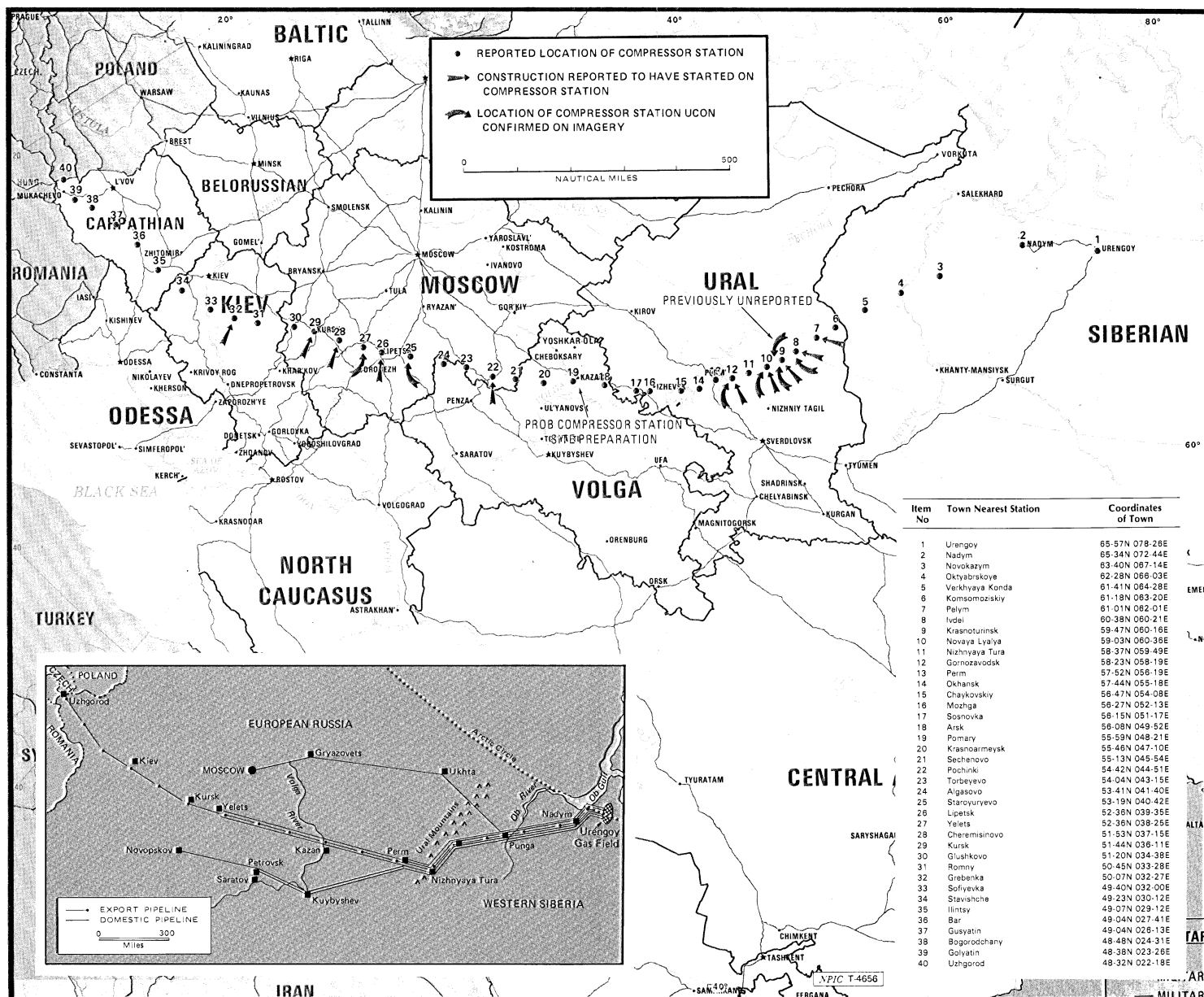


FIGURE 1. PROPOSED ROUTE OF SIBERIA-TO-WESTERN EUROPE 56-INCH NATURAL GAS PIPELINE. Inset shows additional domestic routes of proposed 56-inch natural gas pipeline; drawing derived from referenced document 1.

Page Denied

25X1

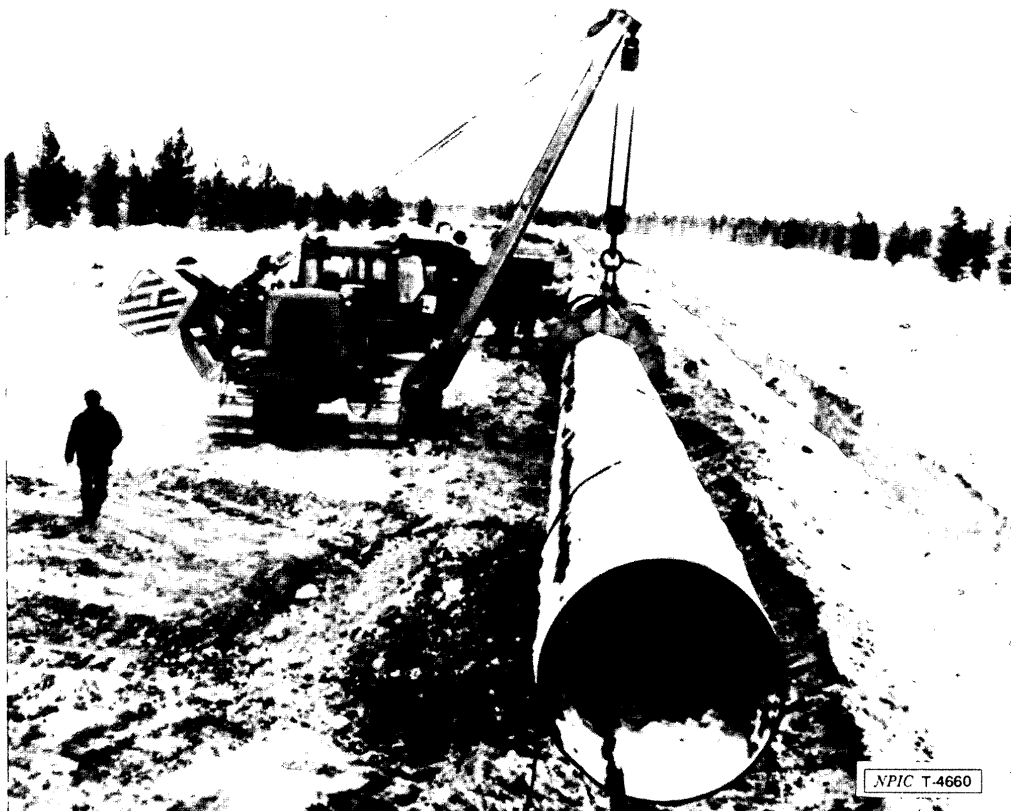


FIGURE 5. LAYING OF GAS PIPELINE IN WESTERN SIBERIA. CIA photograph 1231833, not dated (CONFIDENTIAL).

Page Denied

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Denied

Top Secret RUFF [REDACTED]

25X1

REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(S/WN) Selected satellite imagery acquired from [REDACTED] was used in the preparation of this report. 25X1

DOCUMENTS

1. "Soviets press construction of 56 in. gas pipelines," *Oil and Gas Journal*, Tulsa, Okla., wk of Jun 14, 82, pp 27-30 (UNCLASSIFIED)
2. Multiple Sigint Cables (TOP SECRET U)
3. DOD. IIR 2 218 1647 82, *Urengoy (6558N-7825E)-Petrovsk (5811N-6438E) Gas Pipeline Construction*, 25 Jun 82 (UNCLASSIFIED)
4. DIA. SI-434058/82, DIAIAPPR 79-82, *Intelligence Appraisal USSR-Western Europe: Reactions to US Ban on Export of Pipeline Equipment (U)*, 12 Aug 82 (TOP SECRET [REDACTED]) 25X1
[REDACTED] 25X1

**Extracted information is classified CONFIDENTIAL.

RELATED DOCUMENT

CIA. SOV 82-10120, EVR 82-10078, *Outlook for the Siberia-to-Western Europe Natural Gas Pipeline (U)*, Aug 82 (SECRET [REDACTED]) 25X1

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [REDACTED] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [REDACTED] 25X1
25X1

Top Secret



Top Secret